

# MICHIGAN SUPREME COURT



## *Office of Public Information*

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### **HON. HILDA GAGE, JUDGE OF THE MICHIGAN COURT OF APPEALS, ANNOUNCES RESIGNATION; GAGE PRAISED AS “EXTRAORDINARY PUBLIC SERVANT”**

LANSING, MI, December 22, 2005 – Judge Hilda R. Gage, who served on both the Michigan Court of Appeals and Oakland County Circuit Court, has announced that she will resign from the Court of Appeals as of January 15, 2006, due to health problems.

In a December 12 letter to Governor Jennifer Granholm, Gage spoke of the “great privilege” of serving as a judge.

“Over the past 27 years, I have had the privilege of serving the people of the State of Michigan in my capacity as a Judge; 18 of those years were in the Oakland County Circuit Court and nine years in the Michigan Court of Appeals. It has been an incredible experience,” Gage wrote.

The judge continued, “Needless to say, it is with some regret that I must tender my resignation, but I have had some health difficulties, which make it very difficult for me to continue.” Gage has multiple sclerosis.

Court of Appeals Chief Judge William C. Whitbeck praised Gage as “an extraordinary public servant” and said that her fellow judges will mourn her departure.

“She is both a great judge and a great lady,” Whitbeck said. “Uncompromising legal scholarship, amazing grace, tremendous strength of character, and enormous courage – that is Judge Hilda Gage. Her standards are high, but never more so than when she applies them to herself.”

Chief Justice Clifford W. Taylor of the Michigan Supreme Court said that Gage “is a remarkable jurist who is a leader for both the Michigan and the national bench. While we regret the end to a long and very fruitful judicial career, I and my fellow Justices are very grateful for all that Judge Gage achieved as a judge and a servant of Michigan citizens.”

Gage was appointed to the Court of Appeals in 1997, after serving as a judge and chief judge of the Oakland County Circuit Court, to which she was first elected in 1978. Appointed to both the Michigan Civil Rights Commission and the Michigan Sentencing Guidelines Commission,

Gage was the first woman to serve as chairperson of the National Conference of State Trial Judges of the American Bar Association. She was also the first woman president of the Michigan Judges Association and the first woman to chair the Michigan Judicial Tenure Commission. A Fellow of the American Bar Foundation and of the Michigan Bar Foundation, Gage was recently chosen to serve as the appellate court representative on the Board of Directors of the National Center for State Courts. She currently serves on the Executive Boards of Children's Hospital of Michigan and the National Multiple Sclerosis Society. A graduate of the University of Michigan, where she earned both bachelor's and master's degrees with distinction, Gage received her law degree with high honors from the Wayne State University Law School.

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